

## Message Text

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14  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

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P R 090702Z OCT 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4473  
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
CINCPAC HONOLULU  
DIA WASHDC

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH  
SUBJECT: KING APPOINTS NEW PRIME MINISTER

SUMMARY: KING APPOINTED THANIN KRAIWICHIAN AS PRIME MINISTER  
ON OCTOBER 8. FORMATION OF CABINET EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED  
WITHIN TWO WEEKS. CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE  
REFORM COUNCIL(NARC) PROMISES NEW CONSTITUTION SHORTLY.  
END OF SUMMARY.

1. ON OCTOBER 8 THE KING APPOINTED THANIN KRAIWICHIAN,  
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, AS THE NEW PRIME MINISTER. THE  
APPOINTMENT WAS ANNOUNCED BY ADMIRAL SANGAT CHALOYU,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM COUNCIL (NARC)  
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SA-NGAT SAID THAT FORMATION OF THE NEW CABINET IS EXPECTED

TO TAKE TWO WEEKS. IN THE INTERIM THE NARC WILL CONTINUE TO ADMINISTER THE COUNTRY. ADM. SANGAT ALSO PROMISED A NEW CONSTITUTION SHORTLY.

2. IN HIS MAIDEN SPEECH AS PRIME MINISTER ON RADIO AND TV OCT. 8 THANIN OUTLINED THE FIVE MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING THE COUNTRY-- THE COMMUNIST THREAT, CORRUPTION, OPPRESSION OF THE PEOPLE, POVERTY AND THE CHANGE TO A NEW FORM OF GOVERNMENT. HE PLEDGED TO UPHOLD THE NATION, RELIGION AND MONARCHY. HE EXPLAINED THAT DEMOCRACY WOULD HELP PRESERVE THESE THREE INSTITUTIONS BUT THAT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED GRADUALLY.

3. THE NEW PRIME MINISTER IS NOT WELL-KNOWN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC BUT IS WELL-RESPECTED WITHIN THE JUDICIAL AND EDUCATIONAL CIRCLES. HE IS KNOWN CONSERVATIVE AND FERVENT ANTI-COMMUNIST BUT APPARENTLY DOES NOT HOLD EXTREME RIGHT-WING VIEWS. HE WAS BORN ON APRIL 5, 1927, IN BANGKOK INTO A WEALTHY FAMILY. HE RECEIVED HIS BA FROM THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY IN 1948 AND HIS LLB FROM LONDON, GREY'S INN, IN 1953. HIS WIFE, A NON-THAI NAMED KAREN, AND HE HAVE TWO CHILDREN.

4. THANIN ENTERED THE JUDICIAL SERVICE IN 1955. HE WAS CHIEF OF THE LEGAL AFFAIRS DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE(MOJ) IN 1958; WAS EDITOR OF DULAPHA, THE MONTHLY LAW JOURNAL OF THE MOJ 1959-62 AND OF THE BOT BANDIT, THE QUARTERLY LAW JOURNAL OF THE THAI BAR ASSOCIATION 1962-63. HE SERVED AS CHIEF JUDGE OF THE PROVINCIAL COURT IN CHIANG MAI FROM 1964 TO 1967 WHEN HE WAS FIRST APPOINTED ASSISTANT JUDGE, COURT OF APPEALS, AND THEN SECRETARY OF THE SUPREME COURT. HE THEN BECAME A SUPREME COURT JUDGE. HE HAS LECTURED ON LAW AT THAMMASAT, CHULALONGKON AND RAMKHAMHAEN UNIVERSITIES AS WELL AS THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE (NIDA). HE HAS LECTURED ON LAW AND COMMUNISM AT THE INTERNAL SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER AND THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COLLEGE... WAS APPOINTED TO THE 1973-75 NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND WAS SELECTED TO WORK ON THE CONSTITUTION DRAFTING COMMITTEE. HE REPORTEDLY WAS A PROTEGE OF THE LATE SUKIT NIMMANHEMIN, A FORMER THAI AMBASSADOR THE U S THANIN IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WELL LIKED AND WELL RESPECTED BY HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, TH, (THANIN KRAIWICHIAN)  
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